

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A production management system, comprising:  
a production line including such product processing apparatuses as a  
5 combination weigher and bagger;  
a network that connects said product processing apparatuses; and  
a plurality of image-taking means for taking images of operating conditions,  
said image-taking means provided at each of said product processing apparatuses;  
wherein:  
10 said network is capable of distributing image information from said plurality  
of image-taking means.
2. A production management system according to claim 1, wherein  
said network is an Ethernet or wireless LAN.
- 15 3. A production management system according to either claim 1 or claim  
2, further comprising  
control means for controlling said product processing apparatuses based on  
image information distributed by said network.
- 20 4. A production management system according to any of claims 1  
through 3, further comprising  
warning means for comparing said image information and reference image  
information and issuing a warning when necessary.
- 25 5. A production management system according to any of claims 1  
through 4, further comprising  
storage means for storing said image information.

6. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses, comprising:

image-taking means for taking images of operating conditions of the product processing apparatuses; and

5 storage means for storing image information obtained by said image-taking means.

7. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses according to claim 6, wherein:

10 said storage means stores image information from said image-taking means, said image information relating to operating conditions at a plurality of locations.

8. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses according to either of claim 6 or claim 7, wherein:

15 said storage means stores image information from said image-taking means, said image information relating to operating conditions taken at different times.

9. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses according to any of claims 6 through 8, further comprising

20 abnormality detection means for detecting abnormalities in the operating conditions of the product processing apparatuses.

10. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses according to claim 9, further comprising

25 display means for displaying said image information,  
wherein:

when detection of abnormality information is received from said abnormality detection means, said display means displays image information of the location where an abnormality has occurred, said image information being from before and after

occurrence of said abnormality and stored in said storage means.

11. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing  
apparatuses in a production line having a plurality of product processing apparatuses,  
5 said system comprising:

image-taking means for taking images of operating conditions of the product  
processing apparatuses;

first storage means for storing image information obtained by said image-  
taking means; and

10 an image distribution device capable of distributing image information stored  
by said first storage means.

12. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing  
apparatuses according to claim 11, further comprising

15 second storage means for storing said image information distributed by said  
image distribution device.

13. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing  
apparatuses according to claim 12, wherein:

20 said second storage means stores image information of operating conditions of  
the plurality of product processing apparatuses, or of operating conditions from a  
plurality of locations at each product processing apparatus, or of operating conditions  
taken at different times.

25 14. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing  
apparatuses according to any of claims 11 to 13, further comprising

abnormality detection means for detecting abnormalities in the operating  
conditions of the product processing apparatuses.

15. A system for checking operating conditions of product processing apparatuses according to claim 14, further comprising display means for displaying said image information, wherein:

5 when detection of abnormality information is received from said abnormality detection means, said display means displays image information of the location where an abnormality has occurred, said image information being from before and after the occurrence of the abnormality and being stored in said second storage means.

10016345-21501